

JCS REVIEWED 14-Jul-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

JCS REVIEWED 14-Jul-2010: REFER TO DOS

June 25, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL - EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG

FROM: ADMIRAL WELANDER

SUBJECT: Press Reports of
Defense Attache
Activities Northeast
of Phnom Penh

The attached is the best information
available to the JCS on background
of subject reports.

DIA REVIEWED 15-Jul-2010: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

DOS REVIEWED 16-Jul-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

REFER TO DIA

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IMMEDIATE

25 JUNE 1971

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25x1

TO LTC BENNETT DIA

INFO CPT BURNETTE DIA AA

ZEM.

CONFIDENTIAL CAM 624 EYES ONLY

SUBJECT: UPI REPORT OF

25x1

REF: A. STATE 113359

B. PP 3101 (IMMEDIATE FOR SEC STATE)

1. REF A CONTAINS FULL TEXT OF UPI REPORT STATING THAT ON 24 JUNE USSAO HELICOPTERS WERE OBSERVED EVACUATING WOUNDED AND RECOUNTING STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR AT HIS REGULAR PRESS BACKGROUNDER ON AFTERNOON OF 24TH. REF B IS EMBASSY REPLY GIVING FURTHER EXPLANATION WHICH I QUOTE IN FULL IN PARA 2.

2. PHNOM PENH MSG 3101 FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

ACTION: SEC STATE No Objection To Declassification in Part 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-14-5-8-2

PHNOM PENH 3101

REF: STATE 113359

1. ATTACHES HAVE, WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE AMBASSADOR, VISITED SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN KHMER REPUBLIC. VISITS ARE MADE IN HELICOPTERS PROVIDED BY MACV BUT WITH US MILITARY MARKINGS REMOVED AND

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SIGN READING QUOTE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNQUOTE
 DISPLAYED. THIS SIGN IS DESIGNED TO INDICATE THAT HELICOPTER IS
 ON ASSIGNMENT TO EMBASSY FOR DAO MISSION AND NOT REPEAT NOT
 INVOLVED IN TACTICAL AIR OPERATION. ATTACHES AND HELICOPTER
 CREWS ARE REPEAT ARE IN UNIFORM DURING SUCH VISITS. FANK
 PERSONNEL FREQUENTLY ACCOMPANY ATTACHES ON VISITS, AND IF THERE
 IS SURPLUS SPACE ABOARD, SUPPLIES HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN TRANSPORTED.
 WHILE ATTACHE AND PARTY ARE ON THE GROUND AT DESTINATION, THEIR
 HELICOPTERS HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTA-
 TION OF WOUNDED FANK PERSONNEL BOUND FOR PHNOM PENH. PRIMARY PURPOSE
 OF ALL SUCH VISITS IS TRADITIONAL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TRANSPORTATION OF FANK PERSONNEL OR
 SUPPLIES IS INCIDENTAL TO PRIMARY MISSION, SUCH VISITS, INCLUDING
 TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN MADE TO
 VIHEAR SUOR AREA. (ABOVE SUMMARY OF ATTACHE ACTIVITIES MAY BE
 USED IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES).

2. SUBJECT OF ATTACHE VISITS WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH ON JUNE 24
 DURING AMBASSADOR'S WEEKLY BACKGROUNDER FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN
 MEDIA. ENTIRE SESSION WAS ON BACKGROUND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE
 STATEMENT WHICH AMBASSADOR AUTHORIZED BE PLACED ON RECORD,
 WHICH IS CONTAINED IN PARA 1, SUBPARA 4 OF REFTEL.

3. ON BACKGROUND, AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED FACTS OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 25x1
 No Objection To Declassification in Part 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-14-5-8-2
 WHEN QUERIED, THE AMBASSADOR STATED HE DID NOT

BELIEVE THESE ACTIVITIES VIOLATE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT, BUT
 EXPLAINED HE DID NOT WISH TO GO ON RECORD WITH A SUBJECTIVE
 JUDGEMENT. (PARA 1, SUBPARAS 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, REFTEL ARE APPARENTLY
 BASED ON THIS PORTION OF BRIEFING.)

4. SUBPARA 10 APPEARS TO BE INTERPOLATION OF TWO STATEMENTS: ON
 THE RECORD STATEMENT THAT ATTACHE VISITS ARE AUTHORIZED IN ADVANCE
 BY AMBASSADOR AND BACKGROUND EXPLANATION OF OCCASIONAL

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BY INCIDENTAL TRANSPORT OF WOUNDED.

5. RE REFTEL PARA 1, SUBPARA 11, A PHOTOGRAPHER BELIEVED TO BE ON CONTRACT TO UPI ENTERED ATTACHE HELICOPTER ON JUNE 21 AND WAS INFORMED BY ATTACHE HE WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO RIDE. HE DISEMBARDED AS REQUIRED. NEWSMEN ARE NOT CARRIED ON THESE DATT MISSIONS.

6. DATT AFFIRMS THAT HIS HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN USED VERY OCCASIONALLY FOR EVACUATION OF WOUNDED ON RETURN TO PHNOM PENH IN ABSENCE COMPARABLE CAMBODIAN AIRLIFT. AMMUNITION HAS NEITHER BEEN CARRIED NOR DROPPED.

25x1

SWANK

END QUOTE

3. ALTHOUGH I WAS BACK IN EMBASSY AT TIME OF BACKGROUNDER, AMBASSADOR WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS AND AS I DO NOT NORMALLY ATTEND PRESS BACKGROUNDERS I WAS NOT PRESENT. I DID INSURE THAT REF B MADE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE NEVER HAULED AMMUNITION. I STRESS AGAIN THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS INCIDENTAL TO OUR NORMAL TRAVEL. IF I AM GOING TO VISIT A UNIT IN THE FIELD I WILL CARRY FOOD AND MEDICINE TO THEM WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE HELICOPTER. I WILL RETURN PERSONNEL TO PHNOM PENH OR OTHER POINTS BEFORE MY RETURN. WE HAVE WOUNDED OR NOT, BUT ESPECIALLY IF WOUNDED.

4. AMBASSADOR IS TAKING THIS CALMLY AND I DON'T SEE ANY CURTAILMENT IN OUR NORMAL ACTIVITIES FOR PRESENT. I AM SURE THAT EVERYONE IN WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDS THAT WE CAN NOT REPORT AS WE DO UNLESS WE TRAVEL; FURTHER, THE VALIDITY OF OUR REPORTING DEPENDS TO A GREAT EXTENT ON THE RAPPORT WE HAVE WITH THE FANK UNITS WITH WHOM WE HAVE MADE CONTACT.

5. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE PRESS TRAVEL ABOARD USA AIRCRAFT, I HAVE

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REAFFIRMED WITH THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT
HAUL THESE PEOPLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. I HAVE TURNED
DOWN TWO REQUESTS IN ADDITION TO THE INCIDENT REPORTED IN THE UPI
STORY. NHU THO'S SHIP. NHU THO HAD INVITED REPORTER TO ACCOMPANY
HIM TO V.S.

6. I PLAN NO CHANGE IN MY ACTIVITIES, BUT WILL TRY TO AVOID
REPORTERS FOR THE TIME BEING.

GP-3

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING FIRST DUTY HOURS

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